

What is claimed is:

1. A switch array comprising:

a housing having a front face defining a plurality of receptacles open toward the front face for receiving switch assemblies;

a backing circuit board having a plurality of sets of contact identification points on a forward face associated with and oriented toward a back end of each receptacle; and

at least a first switch housing mounted in any one of the receptacles of the switch array, the switch housing having a plurality of identification pins of unique number and arrangement extending from the switch housing into contact with the contact identification points on the backing circuit board.
2. A switch array as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a three position rocker switch installed in the switch housing.
3. A switch array as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a data link;

a switch array controller generating an identification number from the number and arrangement of the identification pins at the first switch housing; and

means for communicating the identification number over the data link.

4. A configurable switch array comprising:
 - a switch array housing having a plurality of switch positions;
 - a plurality of switch assemblies each of which are positionable in any one of the plurality of switch positions in the switch array housing;
 - unique identifying indicia associated with each switch assembly; and
 - the switch array housing having cooperative identifying indicia reading means adapted to generate a value for any unique identifying indicia upon interrogation without regard to switch assembly state.
5. A configurable switch array as set forth in claim 4, further comprising:
 - a microprocessor for interrogating each switch position;
 - a data bus connected between the microprocessor and a vehicle body controller programmed to associate the value for each switch assembly in the configurable switch array and responsive to the state of the switch array for selectively invoking a particular function.
6. A configurable switch array as set forth in claim 5, wherein the identifying indicia are differing numbers and patterns of fingers projecting from one face of each switch assembly housing.
7. A configurable switch array as set forth in claim 6, further comprising:
 - a circuit board backing to the switch array housing; and

identification contact areas on a face of the circuit board impinged by the fingers projecting from the switch assembly housing.

8. A motor vehicle electrical control system comprising:

a body controller;

a data link;

a switch array controller connected to communicate with the body controller over the data link;

a switch array electrically coupled with the switch array controller, including a plurality of switch receiving positions;

a plurality of switch assemblies each of which are positionable in any one of the plurality of switch positions in the switch array housing;

unique identifying indicia associated with each switch assembly; and

the switch array housing having cooperative identifying indicia reading means adapted to generate a value for any unique identifying indicia upon interrogation by the switch array controller.

9. A motor vehicle as set forth in claim 8, the switch array controller further comprising:

a microprocessor for interrogating each switch position;

a multiplexor coupled between the microprocessor and each switch position providing selective connection between the microprocessor and a switch position;

a data bus connected between the microprocessor and the body controller; and

the body controller including programming providing an association between all possible values for each switch assembly in the configurable switch array and a particular function and further providing for invoking a function in response to identification of a switch and determination of the state of the switch.

10. A configurable switch array as set forth in claim 9, wherein the identifying indicia are differing numbers and patterns of fingers projecting from one face of each switch assembly housing.

11. A configurable switch array as set forth in claim 10, further comprising:

a circuit board backing to the switch array housing; and

identification contact areas on a face of the circuit board impinged by the fingers projecting from the switch assembly housing.